



# State Emergency Operations Center State Emergency Operations Center

On October 26, 2005, Illinois' new State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was dedicated furthering the state's abilities to prevent and respond to natural and man-made disasters. The state-of-the-art facility will help bring together key decision makers and equip them with cutting-edge technology to better protect the lives and property of Illinois' residents for decades to come. The new center facilitates the ability to make coordinated decisions under the most stressful conditions by putting the appropriate decision makers around the same table and enabling them to share the same real-time information in the best possible emergency management environment.

The State Emergency Operations Center merges the State Incident Response Center (SIRC), the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) 24-hour Communications Center, the Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center (STIC) and the Radiological Emergency Assessment Center (REAC) under one roof. Until the opening of this facility, these entities were housed in three separate locations throughout Springfield. At the heart of the new 50,000 square foot SEOC is the SIRC, where more than 75 decision makers from state agencies and other response organizations can gather during emergencies to coordinate resources for response efforts. The SIRC hosts two 12-foot by 18-foot video display walls enabling decision makers to simultaneously view a

variety of disaster-related information, including live footage from disaster sites, weather tracking, mapping, status tracking of mission response and live news coverage of the disaster. Breakout rooms adjacent to the SIRC allow up to 120 additional people to meet and work on tasks in support of the response effort.

Standing members of the SIRC include: IEMA; the Illinois State Police; the Illinois Department of Military Affairs; the Illinois Office of the State Fire Marshal; IEMA's Division of Nuclear Safety; the Illinois Department of Transportation Highways and Aviation; the Illinois Commerce Commission; the Illinois Department of Corrections; the American Red Cross; the Illinois Department of Public Health; the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency; the Illinois Department of Central Management Services; the Illinois Department of Agriculture; the Illinois Department of Natural Resources; and the Illinois Secretary of State Police. Other state agencies and organizations are involved in the SIRC depending on the nature of disaster.

In September 2003, Illinois received a \$9.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to build the new SEOC. That represented the second largest grant awarded in the nation under that program. With the facility now open, Illinois becomes the first state in the nation that received an SEOC grant to complete construction. Total cost for the new SEOC and technology for use in the facility is \$19 million. In addition to the federal grant, the state provided a \$3.1 million match in construction bond money including \$20,000 from IEMA. Funding from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security

and the Illinois Terrorism Task Force totaling \$6 million was provided for state-of-the-art technology in the new facility. Exelon, which operates six nuclear power stations in Illinois, also contributed \$800,000 for the REAC and technology used to monitor conditions in and around nuclear power stations. Legislation that brought the new EOC to fruition was sponsored by Illinois Senator Debbie Halverson and Representative Willie Delgado.